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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-fourth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017

(*Item 3 (b)*)

Programme 4
Peacekeeping operations

1. At its 9th meeting, on 5 June 2014, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 4)).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Field Support and the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Views and appreciation were expressed that the programme was of great importance and one of the most important pillars and flagship operations of the United Nations. Support was expressed for the approach of placing peacekeeping as part of a larger strategy that helped to build sustainable peace. Tribute was paid to the men and women who lost their lives while serving the cause of peace.

4. It was pointed out that cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, such as the African Union, as well as coordination among the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping

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Operations were critical and should be strengthened and reflected in the proposed strategic framework.

5. Support was expressed for applying lessons learned and best practice in peacekeeping operations, mainstreaming the main benefits of the integrated service delivery model of the global field support strategy into the programme of work, and using new mechanisms, tools and strategies such as Umoja, the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and the global field support strategy in addressing new challenges.

6. The importance of using the latest technology in carrying out peacekeeping operations and improving the living conditions of peacekeepers was stressed. One delegation called for strengthening the responsiveness of the United Nations in peacekeeping operations by allocating, reallocating and transferring resources globally as new priorities emerged and by sharing and transferring resources at the regional and subregional levels.

7. Support was expressed for multilingualism and for peacekeepers with the appropriate language skills and capacity. It was also pointed out that peacekeepers needed to have experience and capacity to engage in peacebuilding activities, enabling host countries to provide services to civilians. In that regard, several delegations highlighted the importance of training.

8. The view was expressed that the protection of civilians was a key priority of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Other delegations strongly opposed the use of force by the United Nations and questioned the mandate for the protection of civilians. They stressed that the concept must be considered carefully and that it was necessary to draw a clear line between the protection of civilians and the responsibility to protect, as the General Assembly had not yet reached consensus on the latter.

9. Concerns were expressed about the deletions or modifications of the text, as compared with the approved programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015. Views were also expressed in favour of the fresh presentation of the strategic framework of the programme that reflected the current situation of peacekeeping operations.

10. Under "Overall orientation", it was pointed out that a number of important ideas contained in the approved programme of work for the previous biennium had been excluded. Clarification was sought regarding the status of implementation of the global field support strategy and the division and transition of responsibilities among Headquarters, the United Nations Global Service Centre in Brindisi, Italy and the United Nations Support Base in Valencia.

11. Under subprogramme 1, Operations, clarification was sought on the sequence of the listing of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretary-General. It was also pointed out that the work on refining cross-cutting issues contained in the approved programme of work for the previous biennium had been excluded.

12. Under subprogramme 2, Military, clarification was sought on indicator of achievement (a) (ii) as to who approved the list of potential troop-contributing countries and whether the host country played any role. It was pointed out that a

number of ideas from the approved programme of work for the previous biennium had been excluded.

13. Under subprogramme 3, Rule of law and security institutions, clarification was sought on the engagement of the United Nations with Member States and regional and national peacekeeping training centres.

14. Under subprogramme 4, Policy, evaluation and training, clarification was sought on the change of indicator of achievement (i) and the relationship between the expected accomplishment on increased awareness and the indicator of achievement on the number of web-based materials downloaded. Views were expressed that indicator of achievement (ii) should measure the training received instead of the percentage of peacekeeping training standards developed and made available. Clarification was also sought on the role of the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division in supporting training programmes to prepare peacekeepers, as troops were normally trained by Member States.

15. Under subprogramme 5, Field administrative support, emphasis was placed on the importance of timely response to misconduct. Clarification was sought on the difference between misconduct and serious misconduct and the existence of related guidelines. An update was sought on the progress made in the area of conduct and discipline. Clarification was also sought on the relationship between expected accomplishment (b) on increased efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations and indicator of achievement (b) (i) on increased number of international female staff serving in peacekeeping operations and other United Nations field missions. Regarding indicator (c) (ii), clarification was sought on the change in the time frame for referring allegations of serious misconduct for investigation from "in a timely fashion" to "within 3 days".

Conclusions and recommendations

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 4.1

In the first sentence, add the word "international" before the phrase "peace and security".

Paragraph 4.5

Replace the penultimate sentence with the following sentence: "Both Departments will continue to pursue greater coordination, within existing mandates, with internal partners, as well as with external partners, including international financial institutions and regional organizations, to enhance the ability of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security."

Add before the last sentence, the following sentence:

"Sustainable progress on security, national reconciliation and development need to occur in parallel, given the interconnected nature of those challenges in countries emerging from conflict."

Paragraph 4.6

Add at the end of the first sentence, the following phrase: "in coordination with the Peacebuilding Commission".

Paragraph 4.8

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"4.8 The Department of Peacekeeping Operations will continue to focus its efforts on strengthening mission planning and oversight; implementing specific Security Council mandates, including those related to protecting civilians, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and basic principles of peacekeeping (consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and in the defence of a mandate authorized by the Security Council); and pursuing a capability-driven approach to identifying, developing and using peacekeeping resources."

Paragraph 4.11

Replace the last sentence with the following:

"Departmental strategy will be accompanied by a strong results-driven performance framework to enable the effective monitoring and management of strategic objectives, and in order to deliver services to the field quickly and effectively."

A. Peacekeeping operations

Subprogramme 1
Operations

Objective of the organization

Replace the objective with the following:

"To ensure the effective implementation of all Security Council mandates to plan, establish and adjust peacekeeping operations, as well as the effective implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Strategy

Paragraph 4.14

At the beginning of the last sentence, insert: "Bearing in mind relevant resolutions,".

Subprogramme 3
Rule of law and security institutions

Strategy

Paragraph 4.18

Replace the second sentence with the following:

"Strengthening rule of law and national security services and institutions in post-conflict societies, based on national ownership, is essential to building and maintaining sustainable peace and security."

Subprogramme 5
Field administrative support

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add a new expected accomplishment as follows:

"(d) Increased measures to prevent serious misconduct".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (b) (i), replace "international female staff" with "international and national female staff".

Add a new indicator of achievement as follows:

"(d) Decreased number of substantiated allegations of serious misconduct".

Subprogramme 6
Integrated support services

Strategy

Paragraph 4.26

Replace the second sentence with the following:

"The activities of those Divisions include the general provision of equipment and services to missions, based on the general principles of procurement (best value for money; fairness, integrity and transparency; effective international competition; and the interest of the United Nations), and with adherence to relevant General Assembly resolutions, for the effective, timely and efficient fulfilment of their mandates."

Add at the end of the paragraph, a new sentence as follows:

"The Divisions will continue strengthening synergies and cooperation with the relevant structure of the Department of Management within the Departments' relevant mandate."

B. Peacekeeping missions

Paragraph 4.28

Replace the first sentence with the following:

"The mission will continue to provide timely and accurate observation reports and analysis of political developments mission-wide, including the safety and security situation."